## In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1. (Amended) An isolated substantially homogeneous mpl ligand [polypeptide] having on arise and separate allotted from the group consisting of thrombopoietic activity comprisings
  - (i) a human mpl ligand EPO-domain fragment, hML<sub>153</sub> as shown in Fig. 1 (SEQ ID NO:1) and,
  - (ii) a variant *mpl* ligand having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity with hML<sub>153</sub>.
- 2. (Amended) The *mpl* ligand [polypeptide] of Claim 1 selected from the group consisting of
  - (a) a fragment [polypeptide] <u>mpl ligand comprising amino acid residues 1 to X</u> of Fig. 1 (SEQ ID NO:1), where X is selected from the group consisting of amino acid residues 153, 164, 191, 205, 207, 217, 229 and 245;
  - (b) a variant [polypeptide] <u>mpl ligand comprising a ligand having at least 95%</u> amino acid sequence identity with hML<sub>153</sub>; and
  - (c) a chimeric <u>protein</u> [polypeptide] <u>comprising a mpl ligand of (a) or (b) fused</u>
    to a molecule selected from the group consisting of an IgG fragment, IL-3,
    G-CSF and EPO.
- 6. (Amended) A fragment [polypeptide] *mpl* ligand according to Claim 2, wherein the amino acid sequence of the [polypeptide] *mpl* ligand comprises amino acid residues 1 to X of **Fig. 1** (SEQ ID NO: 1), where X is selected from the group 153, 164, 191, 205, 207, 217, 229[,] and 245 [and 332].
- 17. (Amended) [A chimera] The chimeric protein of Claim comprising the N-terminus residues 1 to about 153 to 157 of hML[, substituted with one or



more, but not all, of the human EPO residues added or substituted into the N-terminus residues of hML at positions corresponding to the alignment] shown in Fig. 10 (SEQ ID NO:6) fused to human erythropoietin (EPO) shown in Fig. 10 (SEO ID NO:7).

## Please add the following new claims:

- --38. The mpl ligand of Claim 1 that is full length human mpl ligand hML<sub>332</sub>. --
- --39. The *mpl* ligand of Claim 1 that is an EPO-domain fragment human *mpl* ligand hML<sub>153</sub>. --
- --40. The mpl ligand of Claim 38 that is glycosylated. --
- --41. The mpl ligand of Claim 6 further comprising an N-methionyl residue. --
- --42. The *mpl* ligand of Claim 41 that is unglycosylated. --
- --43. The *mpl* ligand of Claim 42 further comprising a nonproteinaceous polymer covalently linked to the *mpl* ligand selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol and polyoxyalkylene. --
- --44. The variant *mpl* ligand of Claim 2 that is an amino acid substitution variant in which at least one amino acid residue in the *mpl* ligand is removed and a different residue is inserted in its place. --
- --45. The variant mpl ligand of Claim 44 that is hML<sub>332</sub> (R153A, R154A). --

